In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A child safety lock for door latch mechanisms having a rotatable shaft extending from a door and a lever extending radially from the rotatable shaft, the child safety lock comprising:

a lever grip element configured to engage a portion of the lever to limit free motion of the lever as would be necessary to open the door latch mechanism;

a fulcrum element attached to the lever grip element so as to be positioned proximate to the shaft as a fulcrum about the shaft;

a ~~at least one~~ connecting element having a first end attached to the fulcrum element and extending radially therefrom to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure;

whereby the child safety lock conducts a force of rotation of the lever in a direction toward the connecting element ~~an unlocking direction~~ to the stationary door structure thereby preventing rotation of the lever in the direction toward the connecting element.

2. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the connecting element is sized so that the second end interfits against a door jam adjacent to the door handle when the door is closed.

3. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the fulcrum element is a collar for surrounding the shaft.

4. (Original) The child safety lock of claim 3 wherein the collar includes at least a first and second collar portion openable for insertion of the shaft within the collar.

5. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 4 wherein the collar includes at least one latch for releasably retaining the collar closed about the shaft after the collar has been positioned about the shaft.

6. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 3 wherein the collar includes space filling elements allowing an opening of the collar to conform to different diameter shafts.

7. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 6 wherein the space filling elements are spring fingers extending inward from an inner edge of the collar to flexibly press against an outer circumference of the shaft.

8. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 1 further comprising another ~~wherein the~~ connecting element that includes a release allowing it to be displaced from interfitting with a stationary door structure for rotation of the lever in a direction toward the another connecting element.

9. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 8 wherein an operator of the release extends from an upper side of the safety lock when the safety lock is positioned about the rotatable shaft.

10. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 8 wherein the another connecting element is an arm and includes a pivot and the release is a catch preventing pivoting of the arm except when the catch is released.

11. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip element is a collar surrounding the lever.

12. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip element is asymmetric about a plane perpendicular to an axis of the shaft and wherein the lever grip element may be rotated about a radial axis for use with lever handles on either side of a door.

13. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 8 ~~1 including a second~~ wherein the connecting element ~~extending radially from the fulcrum element to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure~~ and another connecting element prevent rotation of the lever in clockwise and counterclockwise directions when both are interfitted with the stationary door structure.

14. (Currently Amended) The child safety lock of claim 13 wherein the another connecting element includes a release for allowing ~~it~~ the another connecting element to be

displaced from interfitting with a stationary door structure ~~for~~ to allow rotation of a lever of a door only in an upward direction.

15. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip element, fulcrum element, and connecting element are polymer materials.

16. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the connecting element has feet portions that ride against a front surface of a door equipped with the child safety lock.

17. (Currently Amended) A child safety lock for door latch mechanisms which have a lever that extends radially from a rotatable shaft which extends from a door, the child safety lock comprising:

an arm element~~a lever engaging element for engaging a portion of the lever~~;

a release lever;

a collar assembly attachable about the rotatable shaft of the door latch mechanism and communicating with the arm element ~~lever engaging element~~ through the release lever and with stationary door structure so that a force of rotation of the lever in an unlocking direction is conducted from ~~by the lever engaging element to~~ the collar assembly ~~and therefrom~~ to the stationary door structure via the arm element when the ~~catch~~ release lever is in an engaged state and so that the arm element ~~lever engaging element~~ moves with the lever in an unlocking direction when the ~~catch~~ release lever is in a disengaged state.

18. (Previously Presented) The child safety lock of claim 17 wherein the collar assembly includes space filling elements allowing an opening of the collar to conform to shafts of different diameter.

19. (Currently Amended) A lock assembly selectively engageable with a door assembly for interfering with the operation of a door latch having a lever handle, the ~~device~~ lock assembly comprising:

a first portion for engaging the lever handle;

a second portion for removably engaging the first portion such that the first portion and the second portion are secured to the door latch when the first portion and the second portion are engaged with one another; and

an arm pivotably connected to the second portion, the arm being movable between a first position wherein the arm prevents operation of the lever handle and a second position wherein the first portion and the second portion rotate with the lever handle during operation of the door latch.

20. (Previously Presented) The lock assembly of claim 19 further comprising another arm extending from the second portion, the arm and another arm fixing a position of the lever handle relative to the door only when the arm is in the first position.

21. (New) A child safety lock for door latch mechanisms having a rotatable shaft extending from a door and a lever extending radially from the rotatable shaft and movable in at least one unlocking direction, the child safety lock comprising:

a lever grip element configured to engage a portion of the lever to limit free motion of the lever as would be necessary to open the door latch mechanism;

a fulcrum element attached to the lever grip element so as to be positioned proximate to the shaft as a fulcrum about the shaft;

at least one connecting element having a first end attached to the fulcrum element and extending radially therefrom to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure, the number of connecting elements used to interfit with the stationary door structure being equivalent to the number of unlocking directions of the lever; and

whereby the child safety lock conducts a force of rotation of the lever in an unlocking direction to the stationary door structure thereby preventing rotation of the lever in at least one direction.